

Overall the Laurel Thickets POA's are in good shape compared to some of the other POA's as we had talked about earlier. I have included my notes about things that could be worked on to improve around the homes in the Laurel Thickets in case of a fire.

If you have any questions or i can be of any further assistance feel free to email or give me a call.

Thanks,

Sam Buchanan

Lee County Forest Ranger

## Firewise Assessment for the Laurel Thickets

- Pine straw goes up to the edge of some of the homes. They need to make a break in the fuel so the fuel doesn't go up to the house.
- Pine straw underneath decks and porches needs to be removed. They could use gravel underneath them but leaves and pine straw will need to be removed periodically.
- Pine Straw on roofs and in gutters needs to be removed.
- One home was seen that had bales of pine straw piled up close to the home.
- Mulch that goes up to the edge of a house needs a break in the fuel. (Mulch is a little better than pine straw but can still dry out and burn.) Brick chips could be used but will need to be cleaned of pine straw and leaves periodically.
- Some of the houses we looked at the tree line comes right up to the house and have overhanging limbs. Also in some of these areas vines hanging in the trees need to be removed that are catching pine straw and leaves as this can cause fire to climb in to the tops of trees (also known as ladder fuels). These need to be cut back to have more defensible space around the homes in case of fire.
- Bushes that are around the edge of the homes should be set back some and have brick chips or small gravel around them in case of fire.
- Brick chips or small size pea gravel could be used as walkways around homes as a small break in the fuel. They will need to be cleaned regularly of debris that could burn.
- Cedars and creeping juniper near houses should be removed. These are very flammable when dry.
- If the sewer line and cart path are maintained and cleaned yearly this would be a good fire break.
- Above ground LP tanks should be cleaned around and no debris type fuel should be around them.
- Drains with rip rap should be cleaned of debris such as pine straw and leaves. This can be used as a small fire break in fuels.
- Signs with road names and house numbers should be made of a non flammable material.
- Fire hydrants should be cleaned around periodically. They all seem to be in fairly good shape as of now.
- Some of the cul-de-sac's need to be enlarged and lower limbs removed for easier fire truck navigation.
- Downed limbs & trees should be removed from around homes and common areas.
- Piles of debris in common areas should be removed as these are jackpots of fuel for a wildfire.